

### *Over \$4 Million Headed to Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Otero Counties*

Washington, DC – Congressman Harry Teague announced Thursday that local law enforcement agencies in Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Otero counties will be receiving funding to bolster border security efforts through the Operation Stonegarden program (OPSG). The assistance comes as the Department of Homeland Security releases the final allocations for Fiscal Year 2010 under the Homeland Security Grant Program. The counties will share over \$4 million in funding to support their efforts to secure the US – Mexico border and protect local communities.

“Operation Stonegarden provides critical support and resources to our local sheriffs and police units in their efforts to ensure that border violence does not spill over into the United States. And as violence in the border region continues to escalate, it’s important that our first responders – who are often the men and women of our local law enforcement – have the tools they need to keep New Mexican families safe,” said Harry Teague. “Operation Stonegarden is essential to improving coordination between local and federal agencies, which is why my recent request for a border security funding surge included \$50 million for the program to increase operational readiness along the borders. This allocation today will allow our local forces to continue their efforts to keep our border communities safe.”

The funding can be used for overtime pay to increase available law enforcement agents patrolling the border. The funding can also be used to purchase equipment needed to support border patrol activities such as ATV’s, night vision, and communications devices. Operation Stonegarden grants also seek to enhance law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the borders.

As Vice-Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus, Harry Teague has consistently called for a robust, comprehensive strategy to address the violence along the border. In April, he called on the President to [send the National Guard to the border](#) to address the growing national security threat there and led 50 of his colleagues in [requesting supplemental funding](#) to step up border security, including funding for National Guard on the border, which was included in the recent supplemental appropriations bill passed by the House. Congressman Teague has also called on President Barack Obama to [convene a White House Summit](#) with the aim of building a policy to address the border violence crisis, ensure that the violence does not spill over into the United States, and help America get back to work building our border economies.

Funds were allocated based on risk-based prioritization using U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP's) sector-specific border risk methodology. The breakdown of funds by entity is as follows:

**Dona Ana** - \$1,229,374

**Grant** - \$400,748

**Hidalgo** - \$751,488

**Luna** - \$1,233,174

**Otero** - \$400,733

**Total: \$4,015,517**

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